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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE
GOVERNOR

1501 MAIL SERVICE CENTER, RALEIGH, N.C. 27699-1501

EUGENE A. CONTI, JR.
SECRETARY

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
August 16, 2012
Part of
Public Record

August 6, 2012

Mr. Daniel R. Elliott, Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

Subject: STB Docket No. FD 35654

Dear Chairman Elliott:

I am writing with time sensitivity to request swift action on the proposed acquisition of RailAmerica by Genesee & Wyoming (G&W). In North Carolina, RailAmerica owns the North Carolina & Virginia Railroad Co. (NCVA) and the Chesapeake and Albemarle Railroad (CARR), which are vitally important to our economy because as short lines, they provide the economic lifeline that links our industrial and agricultural businesses and operate in areas of the state no longer served by the Class I railroads.

A decision, which if not made in a time sensitive manner, could have a negative impact on short line rail service in North Carolina. A long drawn out process could possibly lead to an undue disruption to the service our economy and local businesses depend upon.

I hope the STB will review this transaction on an expedited basis consistent with its policy and procedures. A lengthy approval process may bring uncertainty to shippers and make it difficult to plan future capital investment. An expedited review will reduce uncertainty and limit the amount of time the short line freight railroads in my state are in regulatory limbo.

I appreciate your consideration of my views on the matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eugene A. Conti, Jr.".
Eugene A. Conti, Jr.

EAC/pfm

cc: Paul F. Morris, FASLA, Deputy Secretary for Transit